Control of wheat prices in Delhi

29. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of wheat and its products shot up in Delhi during the winter of 2005-06;

(b) if so, the extent thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to ensure reasonable prices of wheat and its products for the consumer who are not covered under the P.D.S. in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The prices of wheat and atta in Delhi increased from Rs. 9.00 per kg. and Rs. 10.00 per kg. respectively as on 2.11.05 to Rs. 11.00 per kg. and Rs. 12.00 per kg. respectively as on 12.1.06. Subsequently, prices of wheat and atta have stabilized. The increase in the prices can be attributed to a variety of reasons such as relatively lower level of stocks in the Central Pool, seasonal factors etc.

(c) Action taken by the Government to check the increase in the prices of wheat and its products for the consumers who are not covered under the PDS in Delhi are increased allocation of 64,000 MT of wheat under the Open Market Sale Scheme for the months of January and February, 2006 and ensuring adequate availability of wheat stocks in Delhi.

Improvement in PDS

†30. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the States wherein Public Distribution System is functioning in an effective manner;

(b) whether the system has failed to show the desired results in some States;

(c) if so, whether Government have made an effort to find out the causes of its failure;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, by when is causes would be found out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is functioning effectively all over the country through a vast network of more than 4.83 lakhs Fair Price Shops (FPS), spread over the country.

(b) to (e) No, Sir. The System ensures food security throughout the country by making foodgrains available. The Central and the State Governments work in close co-ordination in this behalf. In such a vast network of the PDS, the possibility of irregularities in some cases/places cannot be ruled out. Whenever Government received complaints in this respect, these have been forwarded to the concerned State Governments/ UTs for appropriate action.

Requirements under TPDS

†31. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are not capable of fulfilling all the requirements of foodgrains under TPDS and welfare scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by Government to fulfil them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No Sir, the Government is capable to fulfil all the requirement of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Welfare Schemes. The stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 1.1.2006 is 192.60 lakh tonnes. It is sufficient to meet the average monthly requirement of about 33 lakh tonnes of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Welfare Schemes and Open Market Sales till the next harvesting season.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.